

TARPAPER
SEPT. - OCT.
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A very special THANKS
to all who so generously
gave their time to get
this issue to press!

Vol. 10 No. 1

T P A P E R R

The name "TARPAPER" is derived from convict jargon and is meant to express dissatisfaction with a person, place, or thing. Since the Editor has never met a satisfied convict it seems appropriate for this magazine to bear this title.

TARPAPER is published bi-monthly by the convicts of MATSQUI FEDERAL INSTITUTION. Only opinions expressed on the editorial pages are the opinions of the editorial staff. Other opinions are the view of the particular authors. The contents of the TARPAPER do not necessarily conform to the official views of either the Administration of Matsqui or the Solicitor General's Department.

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The opinions and comments expressed herein are entirely those of the Editorial Staff or the designated contributor. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration or any of the staff.

The restrictions imposed by the Administration on the material printed in this publication are similar to those governing the editorial content and policy of any " free " publication. We are at liberty to deal with all topics of interest and concern to the imprisoned providing that we maintain a healthy respect for truth, and be guided by the dictates of common sense and avoid the pitfalls of making statements which cannot be substantiated by concrete proof.

Permission to reprint any excerpts or articles printed in this paper is hereby granted, so long as the proper credit is given as to the origin of the material.

FROM *the Editor's pen*

Rick Rye

AL ODA was recently elected to the vacated position of Sports Representative on the Inmate Committee. Due to these new responsibilities, and the work that the position entails, Al will be resigning as the Editor of TARPAPER. I am sure that his absence will be felt by all of us who are in any way concerned with this paper. When Al took over as Editor, he was forced to start from scratch, as the previous Editor " left " without any notice (a common occurrence in these institutions). Fortunately, I will not be left in such a predicament, as Al will be around to give me a hand whenever I run into difficulties. How long he will be around is yet another question, as he is on the " proverbial gate " for his appeal bail to be posted; which could be at anytime. The sooner the better, we hope, as none of us like to see anyone in these places, especially when they can be out, and are not guilty (aren't we all). I am in the process of trying to talk Al into doing a Sports Scene Column for us; along with a couple of his poems, at least for this edition.

I have several ideas that I will be trying in the next couple of issues. The first of these is, to try to put out an issue per month, as was the custom until sometime last summer. Before that can be done I must find out the cost per copy; that is from the actual printing to the cost of postage. From there I will be able to figure out if the per copy price can be reduced, and if so, by how much; also whether or not the annual subscription rates will have to be raised due to the doubling of the issues per year.

I will also be trying to have more articles that are pertinent to the everyday life in this institution. That is, articles on the Sports Scene, from the Inmate Committee and from the various groups that we have. I feel that by having these types of articles in the paper, it will be more informative to those of you who are not actually aware of these " goings on ", and therefore, provide you with a better perspective of our situation.

In closing, I would like to make it known that " I am open to any ideas or criticisms which would better the quality of this paper ". If you have any comments, then by all means, write and tell me about them. After all, how does one please his subscribers, if he doesn't know what they would prefer to read. I fully intend to provide you with an interesting and entertaining paper. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank Al for his contributions to this paper during his tenure as Editor.

PRISON JUSTICE DAY

Rick Rye

The following article would never have been written without the unsolicited help of the June - July issue of the Odyssey Newsletter from the Millhaven Penitentiary at Bath, Ontario. I also received additional valuable collaboration from one of the co-founders of "Prison Justice Day", Howie Brown. I would like to seize this opportunity to extend a special thanks to Howie for his first-hand information as to dates, times, places, pictures, newspaper clippings, and names, from which this article was written.

PRISON JUSTICE DAY

AUGUST 10th

For all of those who have died in haste,
In these prisons where we all waste;
To all of you who have now departed,
We thank you for the things you started;
And even though you cannot see,
Just how we remember thee;
We give for you one day each year,
Just to let the PUBLIC HEAR;
Just how and why you have died,
When in fact - you all had tried;
To sing, to laugh, to smile, to shout,
On that day when you got out;
But when the gas and bullets fly,
We all know - that some will die...

I should also add that the contents of this article do not agree with the views of the Canadian Correctional Service. The view of the CCS was quoted to me by the Assistant Director of Security here at Matsqui, and is essentially as follows:

"Prison Justice Day - August 10th, is considered an illegal activity, and will be dealt with accordingly".

ED.

The following article was written in memory of all the prisoners that have died needlessly in the prisons of this country. The vast majority of those that have died have done so by their own hand due to the system and how it affects a person's mind.

Prison Justice Day, was founded at Millhaven Maximum Security Institution by Howie Brown and Jack McNeil. The day was started on August 10th, 1975 when the prisoners of Millhaven went on a one-day hunger strike. Another strike began that day and carried on for a further 18 days, the last 7 of those without water. The above strike was conducted by 6 prisoners in the Special Handling Unit at Millhaven.

The day was founded to draw public attention to the inadequate medical and psychiatric attention; the inadequate help call system; the treatment of the prisoners; and to mourn the senseless deaths of those who have died in the prisons across this country.

Prison Justice Day was first initiated to commemorate the deaths of Eddie Nalon and Bobby Landers. Eddie died by his own hand on August 10th, 1974. He just became unable to cope with his confinement, and therefore, sought the only way out which was available to him - suicide. Bobby Landers, however, was quite a different story, he died of what an autopsy showed to be a massive heart attack on May 21st, 1976, at the age of 29. They both died in the Special Handling Unit at Millhaven. Bobby complained of severe pain for several days prior to his death. He was found by the Steward delivering the noon meal.

In 1976, Prison Justice Day spread to B.C., Quebec, and the rest of Ontario. Thousands of prisoners refused their meals. Since 1976 the day of peaceful protest has spread throughout the federal institutions and to most provincial institutions thanks to the fine work of several groups of sympathetic people from the outside. The two main people, both who worked very hard to put it altogether were - Claire Culhane of Vancouver, and Marrienne Rox of Montreal. We would like to take this opportunity to extend a "very special thanks" to these two "very fine ladies", and all the nameless people who have worked so very hard outside, for without their help, this day may never have been as successful as it has.

Even though the Canadian Correctional Service does not agree with Prison Justice Day, they must admit that they have all been peaceful demonstrations, and shall continue to be. There is no one person to be blamed for the numerous deaths, it is the system and how it operates that drives people to these desperate and final acts.

When the day arrives that the government finally realizes, that locking people in a cell "23½ hours a day" only creates more animosity between the keepers and the kept, the sooner "changes" will be made. After all, the people that make the laws are not the ones who are forced to do the time, or keep those who are forced to do the time. The sooner parliament realizes this, the sooner there will be a better understanding between the keepers and the kept, and therefore, less violence. Whether or not parliament realizes it, they are the "indirect" cause of the violence in the prisons of this country.

The following article was taken from the Toronto Star (August 11th, 1976), it was written by Brenda Zosky.

"....There is no review of the decision to isolate a prisoner;
-Sentences to isolate are indeterminate - the prisoner "doesn't know" how long he will be there;
-All prisoners in isolation are treated the same way despite the fact some are there for their own protection, others because they are seen as a threat to the good order of the prison, and others because they have committed an offence".

Micheal Mandel, a Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and a member of the support group, suggested the following reasons for the strike:

"The support group is making the following demands:
-Prisoners in isolation must be supervised by specially trained staff who can deal with the serious emotional effects of long term isolation;
-Panic buttons now in isolation cells so prisoners can call for help must be in working order;
-Prisoners in isolation must be able to maintain contact with their original C.O;
-Adequate medical and psychiatric care must be available;

-Prisoners must be able to maintain hygiene. The number of showers now allowed is not enough;
 -Brutality in the form of shackling, gasping, beatings and being forced to sleep with the head beside the toilet must end;
 -There must be adequate clothing and bedding rather than letting some lie naked in their cells".

INMATE BILL OF RIGHTS

(As ratified by the general assembly at the Federation's Annual Meeting, May 12-14, 1978).

Be it resolved that the Federation demand that the Federal and Provincial Government enact an Inmate Bill of Rights based on the following principles:

Fundamentally, the deprivation of liberty in and of itself should be seen as sufficient punishment for the commission of a criminal offence, where such deprivation is deemed warranted. We cannot accept further deprivations which result from this loss of liberty. Further to this, we believe that all prisoners should have all the other rights, obligations and opportunities accorded to the rest of Canada. We also believe that any denial of these rights, obligations and opportunities works against the best interest of society in that such denial inevitably leads to further violence and criminality.

We recommend the following to the Federal Government and all Provincial Governments for all prisoners, whether convicted or awaiting trial:

1. Immediate implimentation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in their entirety, to which Canada is signatory;
2. Application of the Canadian Bill of Rights to the entire prison and parole system;
3. The extension of fundamental rights of natural justice to all proceedings and administrative decisions within or without the institution, which affect the rights and privileges of the prisoners. This includes the right to retain counsel of one's choice; the right of notice of all hearings; the right to submit evidence; the right to cross-examine witnesses; the right to full disclosure of all evidence; and the right to appeal to the courts;

4. The right for prisoners to do meaningful and productive work with equitable remuneration in compliance with Federal and Provincial Legislation (minimum wage standards, safety standards, unemployment insurance, workman's compensation, etc.);
5. The right for prisoners to have full control over their income and property;
6. The right for prisoners to engage in self-initiated improvement, including access to educational facilities and resources, reading material (including legal literature),adequate recreational opportunities and facilities;
7. The right for prisoners to exercise their religion,including access to facilities for worship;
8. The right of prisoners to have any visitors, to meet in private, and to have conjugal visits;
9. The right of prisoners to have complete freedom to communicate by telephone or mail with any party, free from censorship or inspection;
- 10.The right of prisoners to choose whether to participate without penalty, in any permissible activity outlined herein;
- 11.The right for prisoners to have access to all information that relates to them
- 12.The right for prisoners to have freedom of speech, and actual participant in the democratic process;
- 13.The right for prisoners to be held in the least restrictive environment possible in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offence committed, with optimal freedom of movement therein;
- 14.The right to a formal grievance procedure, including provision for binding arbitration;
- 15.The right for prisoners to assemble and associate,including the right to establish and participate in social, political or economic groups, as well as to establish committees to represent all inmates in the decision-making process;
- 16.The right of prisoners to have adequate medical service and the right to refuse treatment;
- 17.The right of the public to be present to observe, to be treated with dignity, and participate meaningfully in the administration & decision-making process of the prison, given that the prison is a public institution; and
- 18.The right of prisoners to free,adequate legal services.

prison justice day

(Editor's Note - The following article was submitted to ERP by Harvey Andres, and was the pamphlet distributed by Claire Culhane and her group for Prison Justice Day, August 10, 1979, in B.C.)

Join The Fight For Prisoners Rights

support

PRISON JUSTICE DAY

VIGIL and FAST 7 pm AUGUST 9th to 7 pm August 10th

Speaker: Svend Robinson, MP

MEMORIAL SERVICE - 2 p.m. August 10th, 1979

Reverend Ken Witherspoon

In front of the B.C Penitentiary, New Westminster, and Okalla

For an end to the senseless deaths in prisons.

"As a response to crime, prisons are a destructive and expensive failureMoreover, the prison system is both the cause and the result of violence and social injustice, and, irrespective of criminality, weighs more heavily on the poor and powerless than on the powerful."

- Society of Friends (Quakers) 1977

SPONSORS - Black Solidarity Association, B.C. Law Union, Canadian memorial Church, First United Church, Prisoners Rights Group, Solitary Confinement Abolition Project, Society of Friends (Quakers), Vancouver Status of Women. For Information phone 299-7178.

PRISONS ARE EXPENSIVE FAILURES

The Costs: -

- * Since 1970, the budget of the Canadian Corrections Service has increased by 400 %.
- * The cost of constructing a single prison cell is \$110,000.
- * The cost of an adult prisoner in B.C. is an estimated \$12,000 a year.
- * The Government of Canada plans to spend \$280 million to build 9 new prisons and remodel 9 others. None will be closed. This means an increase of 4,542 cells.

The Results -

- * Prisons do not diminish the crime rate. There is no correlation between deterrence and severity of punishment.
- * Prisons do not rehabilitate. By the type of life they impose on the prisoner, prisons produce delinquents and guarantee recidivism.

- * Prisons do not protect Society. An estimated 85% of all prisoners could be safely released under community supervision, making it possible to provide effective programs for the remaining 15%.

The Reality

- * Prisons are a part of a self perpetuating system. Prisons create jobs for a huge network of people employed in the criminal industry. They provide the excuse for new disciplines such as criminology, penology, forensic psychiatry, and so on.
- * Prisons serve to define an area of controlled illegality in which the inhabitants can be used to produce drugs, sex, and pornography, or as informers and agents provocateurs.
- * Almost 80% of those charged with offences are under 25. The unemployment rate for this group is over 15%. There is a clear correlation between unemployment and crime.

Prison Reform Does Not Work Because It Is Not Intended To

- * Prison reform does not alter the power structures within penal institutions.
- * Prison reform does not reduce the total number of prisoners or the length of their stay in prison.
- * Prison reform is not based on the concept of community responsibility and concern.

"Alternatives to the punitive system of criminal justice are already being developed, and many more are needed, that will empower people to help themselves in constructive and self-fulfilling ways and that will bring about restitution, reconciliation and healing in the community."

The Alternatives

The prison system creates a heavy economic burden on the taxpayer, but it does not correct the original act of wrong-doing. In fact, imprisonment more often than not contributes to further criminality. A caring community practising non-punitive and restorative programs can offer alternatives for that majority of offenders who are not violent, and who do not constitute a danger to themselves or the community.

Diversion

Offenders who admit their guilt can be sentenced to community service.

Restitution

Like bankrupt corporations, offenders should be able to make a settlement. In this way both the victim and the offender would be helped.

Victim-Offender Reconciliation

This method which brings the offender and the victim together as human beings, and not as stereo-types, has proved highly successful where it has been used.

"The only way to reform the prison system is to dismantle it."

- Instead of Prisons, 1977

"I am sick to death of prisons. I think we have wasted so much of human people....to keep women at this point in time in cells that are only toilets is a completely uncivilized thing.....if something drastic is not done in the near future, we are in for far more trouble."

- Isabel MacNeil
Former Director,
Kingston Prison
for Women - 1977

Prisons Do Not Work

- * Sweden plans to close its prisons by 1980.
- * Denmark, with 14 million people, has an average prison population of 69.8 per 100,000. The Netherlands with a population of 3 million, has 22.4 per 100,000.
- * Canada, with a population of 23 million, has an average 90 prisoners per 100,000 and continues to process more and more people through the criminal justice system.

Capital Punishment Does Not Work

- * There is no evidence that capital punishment is a deterrent.
- * The rate of murders in Canada decreased in the last year.

Solitary Confinement Does Not Work

- * "Diss-association has been found by the courts to be a cruel and unusual punishment.
- * In spite of a ruling by the courts, "diss-association" continues to be used as a method of control in Canadian prisons. For Canadians to continue to tolerate this situation is shameful.

WHY IS MORE MONEY BEING SPENT ON PRISONS WHEN THERE ARE NEARLY 2,000 EMPTY PRISON CELLS? WHEN FUNDING FOR HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION IS BEING CUT BACK? WHEN THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME - UNEMPLOYMENT, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND INEQUALITY - ARE BEING IGNORED BY OUR GOVERNMENT?

The preceeding article was extracted from the August-September issue of "Midnight Express". This mag is published at the EDMONTON INSTITUTION.

Thanks Guys, Ed.

To steal from one author is to plagiarize - to steal from many is to research.

hobbies

We have many talented individuals residing in this "fine" institution of ours. All of these individuals need buyers for their "handmade" crafts. If anyone is interested, drop me a line, and I will get in touch with the people doing the Craft that you desire. Photographs of the various crafts will be made available upon request; so that those who are interested will have a better idea of what may be purchased in that particular craft. If you would like a "special design" or a "one of a kind item", then by all means, let us know.

The following is a brief outline of what may be purchased.

Petit Point - Needle Point - Macrame:

One, two, and three strand silk are available in numerous designs. There is wool in the same designs. In macrame - pot-hangers, bags, and virtually anything that you may want to have made.

Wood Carvings:

Wall plaques (made to order or Indian designs), totem poles, carved coffee tables; also carvings in ivory, slate, and soap-stone are available.

Copper Work:

Most of the work that is done in this craft is Indian design, but almost any design can (and will) be made up.

Pottery:

Tea sets, ashtrays, vases, bowls, plates, wall plaques, and anything else which can be turned out on a potter's wheel.

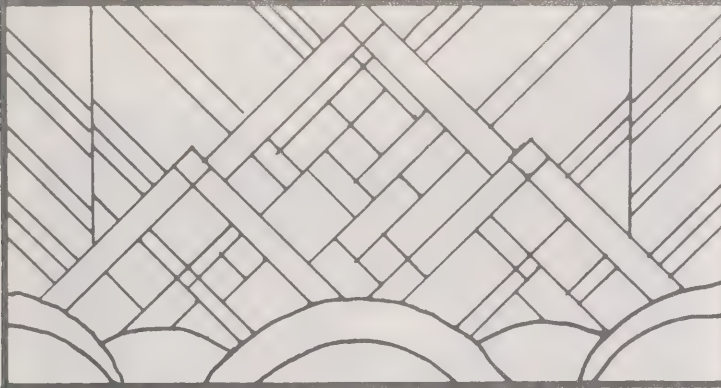
Miscellaneous:

Coffee tables, bookcases, china cabinets, silk screened T-shirts, lamps (made of wood or pottery), and crib - chess and backgammon boards.

Anyone requiring information about any of the above, please contact the Editor, and he will relay the information to the person(s) concerned, and the respective individuals will contact the interested party. If you are interested in some type of craft that is not listed above, then write and inquire, as I may have left some out.

THE CRAFT SHOP

Box 4000, Abbotsford, British Columbia V2S 4P3 - 859-4841



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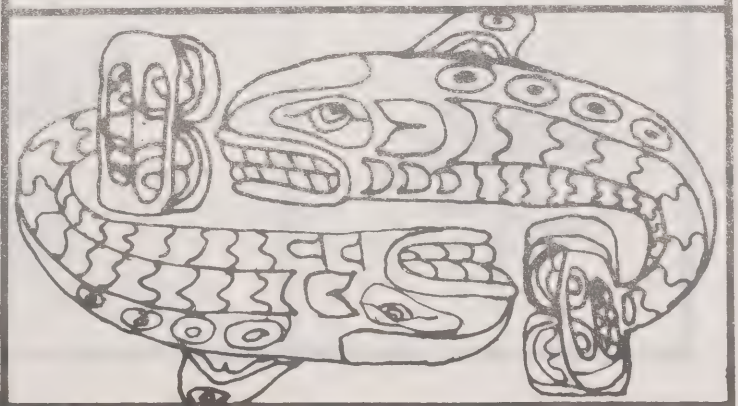
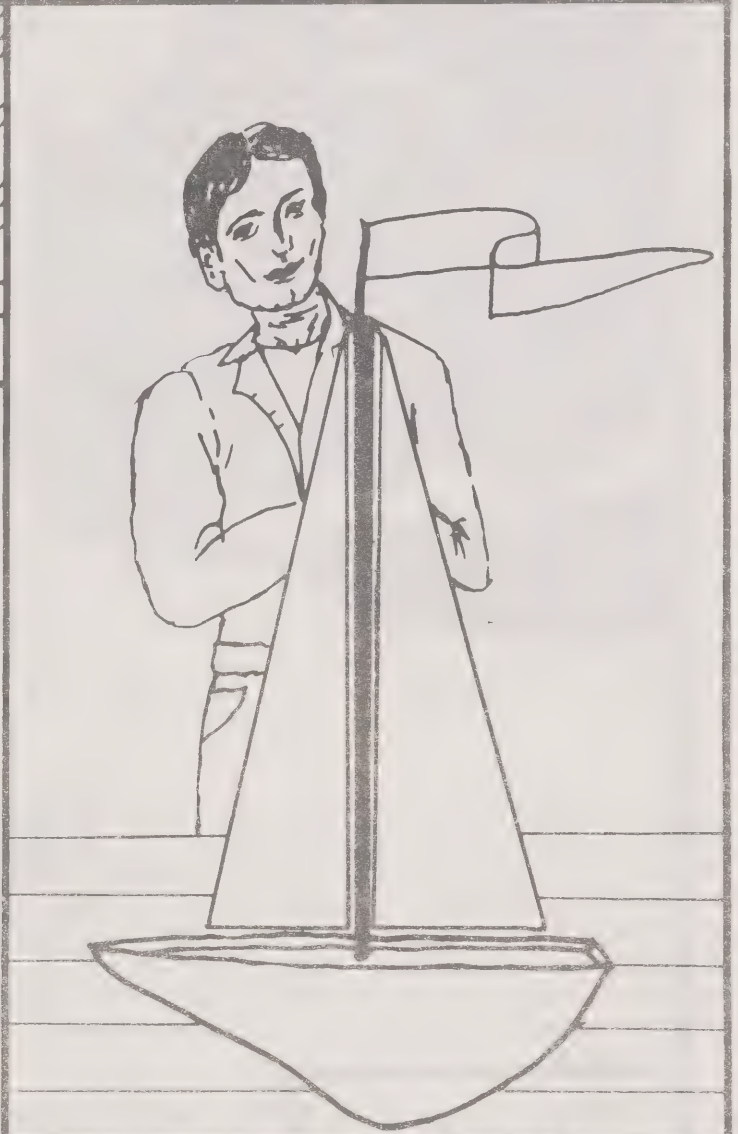
Model Crafts - Boats
Planes

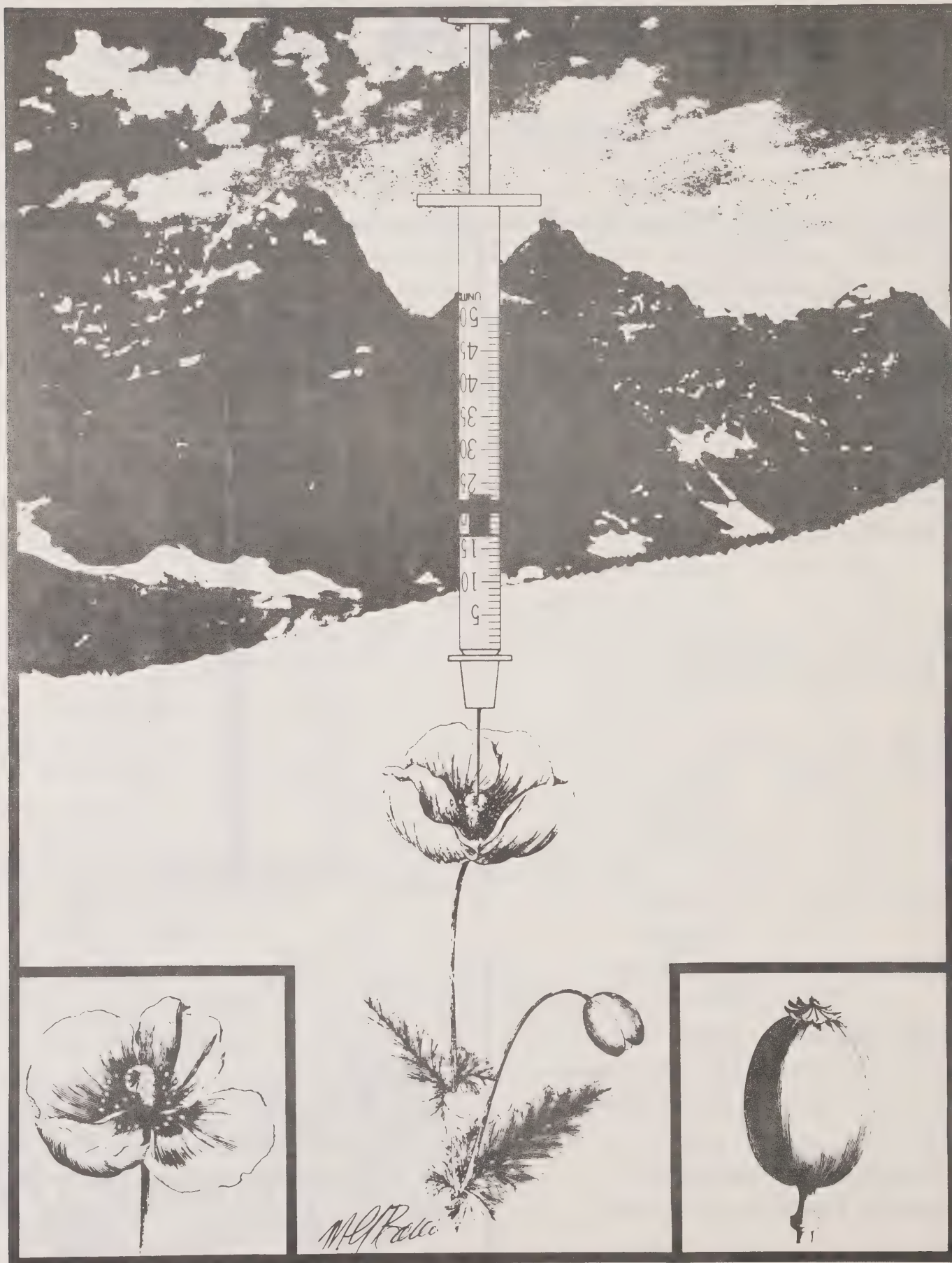
Wood Carving - Bas-relief
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Pictures

Silk Screen - Club T-shirts
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Dealer Enquiries Welcome.





Is Compulsion the Answer?

The following article was reprinted from the LIAISON MAGAZINE, Vol.4,#7, July/August,1978.

As the battle around B.C.'s contentious Heroin Treatment Act (Bill - 18) continues to rage, freelance writer Douglas Maddin evaluates its possible impact on the province's addicts.

About a mile from Abbotsford stands a multi-million-dollar monument to failure. It is more than a decade since the very modern and very costly Matsqui Institution came into being. This was a federal government's dream of an answer to the heroin problem in Canada. The dream has vanished.

The institution was established for the single purpose of treating " criminal drug addicts ". The physical plant had relatively cheerful surroundings. Its classrooms and its elaborate vocational training shops are now used for run-of-the-mill offenders; and its well-meaning, well-trained and dedicated staff have for some time been aimed for other goals. Drug addiction was a target too elusive to hit. I worked at Matsqui Institution as an induction training officer and counsellor for more than five years. I saw the experimental programs develop; I saw them malfunction; and I watched them die - and not without regret, either. The staff was aware of the cost in human suffering and in taxpayers' dollars, but we were even more aware of our impotence in the face of human perversity. Our programs encouraged perversity because they were as compulsory as we could humanely make them. We were not sure of the value of the medicine that we gave our subjects, but it did not take us long to realize that they resented having it forced upon them, just as we would have resented it had the positions been reversed. Resentment, hostility, rejection, and ultimate failure - there you have it, alongside the fact that the medicine was of unproven value.

WHAT WON'T WORK

At that time, a cap of heroin on the illicit market cost about \$20. The addicts often admitted that heroin was the only thing important to them. A five-to-ten-cap habit, not in the least unusual, could not be maintained on most people's wages, even with unlimited overtime. There was just no future in the training. An auto mechanic might have been able to maintain a light habit if he used his skills to strip hot cars and sell the parts, and some of the inmates admitted doing just that. One told me that his habit cost him two television or three stereo sets a day. The " fence " only allowed him ten cents on the dollar.

The act of becoming addicted to heroin is a stupid one. I have found few heroin addicts who will contradict that statement. I am not saying that heroin addicts are stupid; many intelligent people do stupid things. Heroin addicts are generally of above-average intelligence. Most of them are neurotic, and neurosis is not a condition of the dullminded.

I have heard an addict who has been "clean" for months confide: "I like my junk, I will always like my junk". He was saying he was prepared to suffer whatever might befall him if he could have the ultimate pleasure of a fix when he wanted one. He is really telling us: " Look, you be stupid in your way, and I will be stupid in mine ".

The government of British Columbia is trying to bring in legislation to deal with the problem of drug addiction. Here is the gist of some of the statements made by the minister of health:

- *The program must be compulsory. Voluntary programs have been found ineffective.
- *Drug addicts will welcome our programs with enthusiasm.
- *Drug addicts will not leave the province but will welcome the chance to be cured.
- *Vocational training will be offered so that the drug addict will not have to depend on crime to make a living.
- *The rights of the addict will not be infringed upon because an addict not knowing right from wrong really has no rights.

I respect the sincerity and admire the motives of Health Minister Bob McClelland, but all he seems to have is another dream. He has suggested that he is willing to listen to the ideas of others.

That is a manifestation of wisdom. I would like to present some ideas for the minister's consideration:

- *The onus of treating a nation-wide social problem should not fall on one province. The federal government should provide financial assistance to every province after each has agreed to tackle the problem in unison and agree on what course to follow. Any province that takes any kind of restrictive action against its addict population is simply chasing its own problem into another province. If a program is applied uniformly in all provinces, the addicts will then stay where they are.
- *There is no cure for drug addicts. Research should be conducted, but results should be published before the researchers develop wide-ranging programs. Millions of dollars have been spent on ineffective programs.
- *While we are seeking the elusive ultimate solution, let us do what the medical profession does for arthritics. There is currently no cure for arthritis, but certain treatments can make the condition easier to live with.
- *Let us rethink the entire problem. It obviously has two parts: drug addiction and criminality. If the drug addiction is contained (and it can be), drug related crime can be virtually eliminated. Present policies tend simply to punish the drug addict for being stupid, while allowing the smart speculators to go free. It is the latter who perpetuate drug-related crime and contribute to drug proliferation.
- *Present laws pertaining to illicit drug use and trafficking should be maintained, and penalties in no way made lighter.
- *Heroin maintenance programs should be instituted. Existing hospitals where heroin could be administered to registered addicts on a controlled basis should be selected in every province. All heroin should be administered at cost within the confines of the clinic.

That last point is controversial. The idea of administering heroin to anyone is repugnant to many, myself included. And yet, what are the alternatives? I am not suggesting that we give the addict his fix and wash our hands of him. Clinicians could refer to existing community resources any addict who wishes to change, and the addict could take it from there. Alcoholics Anonymous will not touch a person who does not come to them on his own. They know that if he is not prepared to make a commitment, they cannot do a thing for him. As it is, they operate more successfully than any multi-million-dollar drug addiction program ever did. Heroin and alcohol have a lot in common.

AVOID METHADONE.

A heroin support program seems like an unorthodox step, but such an approach is not so unorthodox in the treatment of other problems.

The fighting of a forest fire, for example. It is a common practice to deliberately set a controlled fire

The fighting of a forest fire, for example. It is a common practice to deliberately set a controlled fire in the path of a forest fire that is burning out of control. When the uncontrolled fire reaches the burned-off area, it dies from lack of fuel. Hence the expression "fighting fire with fire". If we administer heroin on a controlled basis to registered addicts, we will be delivering a blow to the business of the trafficker.

If we go about it correctly. We have used drugs to fight heroin in the past. We are still using them. We use methadone, which is as addictive as heroin but doesn't produce the euphoric high; heroin addicts despise it and use it only when they cannot get heroin, simply to eliminate their withdrawal symptoms. The use of methadone will not reduce the demand for heroin. Yet we do not seem to object to the controlled use of methadone although it is a highly addictive drug. Could it be that we do not worry about the addiction as long as there is no pleasure attached to it?

There is a stigma attached to the use of heroin. Many provincial governments would be reluctant to get involved with a program that advocates its use, no matter how well controlled. And legislative opposition could gain political mileage by fomenting a controversy over its use. But if all provincial governments could agree to controlled use of heroin, controversy could be stifled. After all, provincial governments control the administration of alcohol, a potent drug which when abused is destructive to those who practice that particular type of stupidity.



TRIVIA

from: a treasury of Trivia
by: donner & eve paige spencer

The capital letter Gamma repeated four times is a symbol called Gammadion.
What else is it called?

Answer: Swastika!!!! For some convoluted reason, Swastika comes from the Sanskrit word for well-being

Definitions: Preacher = sin buster.
Religious upbringing = raised on prunes and proverbs.
Expression for hunger = I'm feelin' a mite narrow at the equator.

Sign of inflation "A baker's dozen is now down to nine".

How to create a criminal

The futility of trying to rehabilitate people by locking them up

REPRINTED FROM THE OBSERVER, SEPTEMBER, 1979

By Larry Krotz

The other day I heard that Ron is in Quebec, in a place they call an S.C.U. or Special Corrections Unit. A "super-max", some people call it, a place for trouble-makers or people who have gone bonkers or just can't take it anymore.

It's a strange and sad case, Ron's, but not unusual. When I last saw him in Manitoba he was doing 11 years. Now he's probably up to 20 or 30, or maybe even life. The strange part is that he started out doing two years, for fraud. A middle-class guy. First offence.

I'm not excusing the fraud. But Ron's is one of those cases where the punishment got out of step with the crime. They say, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime." Ron was one of those who couldn't do the time. Something snapped when he went behind bars. He could have settled in and possibly been paroled within a year. He surely could have read or watched television for that long. But not Ron. One botched escape attempt led to another. With each failure, more time was added to his sentence. With each added sentence, Ron got crazier and tried harder. The last time I saw him, when all the little bits already added up to 11 years, was just before he bopped a guard on the head with a garden rake and took off in a wild bid for freedom in a Solicitor General's department car. That one failed too. Of course.

I tell Ron's story because, in the life of our prison system, it is one more dismal tale that needs to be told.

I could tell you instead about Arthur. He is an Indian from a small prairie town who has spent part of every year since 1971 in one or another provincial jail in western Canada. Most of his sentences are for driving either while intoxicated or without a driver's license (or both). Jail is a regular part of Arthur's life.

Or I could tell you about Ray. He

is 37. I have known him for seven years. He was in jail when I met him; he is in jail now. In the interval he has been paroled twice. Both times he fouled up. He does well in prison in terms of how the administration sees things. He has even taken two university courses. Both times he came out with the best of plans. Neither time worked out. His job hopes failed; he ran short of money. One of the times his wife left. He got into dope again. He went back to stealing. The last time I saw him he was embarrassed to meet me. He spoke unhappily about the prospect of still being where he was when he became an old man.

Canada imprisons a greater proportion of its population than any other country in the world, save six. There are 10,000 inmates in Canadian federal prisons, 13,000 in provincial institutions. And that prison system is in serious times.

The very first recommendation in the 1977 report of the Parliamentary Sub-committee on the Penitentiary System in Canada (chairman, Mark MacGuigan) begins with the statement, "A crisis exists in the Canadian Penitentiary system." That sums up both that committee's report and the conclusions of many people who are frustrated by the prison system in Canada, both federal and provincial; citizens, administrators, social workers, guards, inmates, politicians.

Imprisonment as a penalty for crime is a relatively recent phenomenon. Before the 18th Century, prisons were used almost exclusively for temporary restraint while preference was given to public floggings, hangings, mutilation, banishment, stocks and so on. Incarceration, ironically, was a reform measure. The assumption was that if a wrong-doer could be alone in his cell with his conscience, he would soon see the error of his ways. The new method spread from the United States to England and thence to Canada. It has been a costly and ineffec-

tual experiment.

The greatest rash of prison building in Canada was between 1875 and 1880. Stone fortresses were built from New Westminster, B.C., to Dorchester, N.B. Almost all survive and continue to function. A few federal institutions have been constructed since 1952.

But by far the biggest binge of new prison building is about to occur right now. Even though the program was put on hold by federal restraint policies, as of December 1978, Canadian Corrections Service plans called for nine new and nine renovated and expanded federal prisons by 1984; 2,753 new cells at \$110,000 per cell.

Two premises are at work. The older institutions are both crowded and outdated. Since 1970, riots, strikes and hostage takings in the nation's penitentiaries have driven home some sort of message to the country's law makers. The response has been to blame the old over-crowded institutions and to promise to replace them with newer, smaller, better equipped institutions that can handle the growing numbers of unhappy and frustrated prisoners. This, with recent laws leading towards incarcerating more people for longer terms, justifies a demand for more institutions.

But there is a fundamental problem. The revamping of the old institutions and the construction of the new ones is being undertaken on the premise that the stated goals of our corrections system—rehabilitation, deterrence and so on—can be achieved by prisons, if our prisons are spacious, airy, well equipped and relatively humane in design. The inconsistency, and what causes great and general frustration, is that statistics show these to be bankrupt goals. Prisons of any sort are warehouses at best, and as my friend Ron is a witness, schools for frustration and crime and anger and violence at worst. An ironic foot-



note to the prison upheavals: one of the most bitter disturbances to date took place not in an old institution, but a new one, Millhaven maximum security institution in Ontario opened only in 1971.

If the premise of "rehabilitation" or "corrections" really worked or was assumed to work, prisons would ideally work themselves out of a job. In fact the opposite is true. Far from phasing itself out of existence, the prison industry is growing, in staffs, budgets, and numbers of institutions. The federal Solicitor General's Department through the Canadian Corrections Service employs over 10,000 persons, more than one employee for every federal inmate. Provincial cor-

rections systems employ roughly as many. In the decade 1966 to 1976 corrections budgets in Canada grew from \$0.6 billion to an estimated \$1.5 billion.

The industry is growing to handle the estimated 80 percent of its clients who never succeed in leading productive tax-paying lives in the community, but return to the institutions again and again. As an industry, Corrections is becoming more entrenched, if anything, with sizable internal vested interests — administrators, employees, unions, and support industries that are increasingly larger, more powerful, and less prone to change.

Dr. Jerome Miller, who gained

notoriety by closing down most of the juvenile institutions in the state of Massachusetts while Commissioner of Juvenile Corrections there, says, "Large institutions do not exist because they are effective, because they cut crime, because they treat people well; they exist because they provide jobs."

If people really did become "rehabilitated", or if courts ceased to send people in large numbers to jail, a major dislocation in the Canadian economy would result.

In private and in their periodic public reports, governments are the first to agree that the idea of incarceration is bankrupt. The fact that 80 percent of inmates are repeaters

over

"If you have \$12,000, \$17,000, \$20,000 or \$40,000 to spend on an individual, how many more things are possible than locking him up?"

means that there is no such thing as rehabilitation and precious little real protection for the community. The \$25,000 it currently costs to maintain an inmate in a federal prison for one year, and the up to \$110,000 it costs for each new cell, mean a horrendous continuing expense. The public has entered into a contract that is getting daily more expensive (former Solicitor General Francis Fox estimated the annual cost of the criminal justice system in Canada including police, courts, and sentencing at \$2.5 billion and predicted that by 1985 it would be \$7.8 billion) and returns little value. Offenders are not rehabilitated; victims of crimes do not receive redress; the community is not more safe. Instead, as the parliamentary report put it, though most of those in prison are not dangerous, "cruel lock-ups, isolation, the injustices and harassment deliberately inflicted on prisoners unable to fight back, make non-violent inmates violent, and those already dangerous more dangerous."

But governments are in a political bind. While imprisonment clearly doesn't work, or works only at great expense, nobody is very sure what will work. When community cries about crime in the streets rise to a crescendo or when a particularly vicious offence has just received full exposure in the media, governments are forced to appear to be doing something even though they may not be sure what to do. The best way to appear to be doing something is to spend money. Hence more and newer constructions, renovations, programs, staff.

What's more, the pressure of the vested interests, the unions, the staff, the administrators with their budgets, the construction companies interested in new prison building, even the communities seeking new "industry", make it easier still to spend the money. When the federal government in 1976 proposed a new maximum security prison for Manitoba, no fewer than five municipalities stumbled over one another to vie for the 200 jobs, the \$4 million annual payroll, and the possible annual revenue of \$300,000 for their council coffers

that a new penitentiary would mean.

Dr. Jerome Miller, from his experiment in the Massachusetts juvenile system that was documented by a Harvard University study, says, "When it comes to crime statistics, we found that the whole lock-up system was irrelevant." Though the city of Boston now rarely locks up more than 25 juveniles at any given time, the juvenile crime rate in Boston has not risen; it has, if anything, shown a slight decrease.

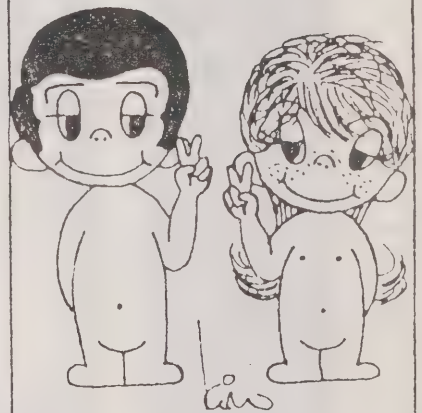
Miller continues by saying that new approaches to criminal justice do not mean new money, just using the money already available more creatively. If you have \$12,000 or \$17,000 or \$20,000 or \$40,000 which you are spending on an individual anyway, how many more things are possible other than simply locking him up. Even if you delivered only on the bottom line—kept that individual out of trouble—more would be achieved than is frequently achieved by the present system.

The parliamentary Report on the Penitentiary System states: "Insufficient use has been made of alternative penalties such as restitution, fines, and periods of community service. These alternative sanctions, it is believed, would be the appropriate manner of dealing with many non-violent offenders against property and particularly young adult offenders."

Alternatives are possible. But again we return to the political bind. During the last federal election campaign, a member of Parliament whose record and views on corrections are relatively progressive admitted privately that he wouldn't dare raise prisons as an issue in his campaign or he surely would not be re-elected.

Though the whole corrections business is hopelessly frustrating, the public mood of fear is the real dilemma of our prisons. It is what commits us to continuing with a system that fills half its prairie prisons with young Indian men, that fails to bring any redress to the victims of crime, that commits men such as Ron to a living hell, and that continues all the while to cost us extravagantly. ■

love is ...



... keeping the peace as much as possible.

love is ...



... being there whenever he needs you.

Where we work, or pretend to...

	Working	Inst. Hosp	Out Hosp.	Escort	S.C.U.	T.A.s	TOTAL
TECH. SERVICES							
Main. Carpentry							2
Main. Electrical							2
Main. Garage							1
Inside Grounds							6
Outside Grounds							5
Main. Paint							6
Main. Plumbing							3
Main. Sheet Metal							2
Works Cleaner							1
Masons							1
Engineers							1
Kitchen							36
S.I.S.							9
Laundry							7



Barber Shop							4
Voc Carpentry							9
EDUCATION AND TRAINING							
School							63
Welding							15
Craftshop							8
Auto Mechanics							13
Auto Body							4
S.T.T. Office							3
Modular Housing							12
MISCELLANEOUS							2
L.U. Cleaners							11
A&D							6
Hospital							7
Unemployed							16
Induction							4
SOCIALIZATION							
P.T.I.							21





CAPTIVE - AJING

YOU

For every moment that we
are not together, I care
I could never stop caring
because I have a much
stronger motivation
than myself YOU
to care is to love, to share,
and to be cared for,
These things I could
never deny you,
Because I have a much
stronger motivation
than just myself,

. YOU

matsqui nights

Fog lights glow
throughout the night,
Rents are low
security is tight,
Although some presume
this joint's a resort,
I'm sure they'd assume
a negative report,
After having to stay
just one short week,
They'd find it's not play
and I'm sure they'd seek,
their FREEDOM...

memories

running slowly backwards
through memories
seldom forgotten -
yet never remembered,
cherished moments
flicker vividly
as though now occurring;

unwanted memories
profusely appear
to dampen one's spirits
and supplant all cheer,
for naught these memories
to relive one's past
what would one have?

love - heavy plagiarism here

Pains of LOVE be sweeter far,
Than all the other pleasures are;

Of all the pain - the greatest pain,
Is not to LOVE - but to LOVE in vain;

LOVE looks not with the eyes - but with the mind,
And therefore is WINGED CUPID painted blind;

They sin who tell us - LOVE can die,
In life all other PASSIONS fly;

LOVE understands and therefore WAITS,
If given the CHANCE - she'll open the gates...

by: al oda

possible?

You were only eighteen
When we first met
And you asked me why
I said that I loved you
It was only for conversation
But later turned out true
And we both pledged our love
To live our lives on a merry-go-round
Then one day it all came to end
You went your way and I went mine
Now I wonder to myself
If I see you again and say the same
Can it possibly come about again.

a.o.

CHANGE

Been writing a lot about love lately
Now I wonder if I should change
Maybe write with a little hate
But when I really think about it
That's exactly what I've been doing

a.o.

lies

I'll never hate you for what you are
Nor will I hate you for what you did
But I believed you when you told me
That I was the only one
No, I don't hate you at all
I'm just sorry for the next one
Who'll have to live with all your lies.

a.o.

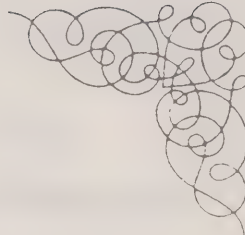
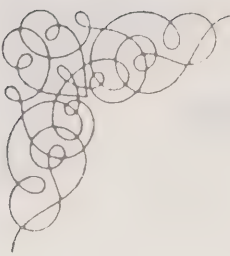
the letter

I wrote you a letter .
To let you know
How much you meant to me
Then I thought of our life
And decided it was a waste
So I rewrote it
And mailed it to someone else.

a.o.

me

Some believe in God
Others believe in Satan
Some don't believe at all
I am what I am
Not because of God or Satan
But because of me....



by: Donny
Valouche

haiku

Gentle grey giants
marked for extermination
in a sea of red...

###

Deer tracks in the snow
pointing the way to innocence
fleeing the hunter...

###

Mankind vanished
once the buttons were pushed
and no buildings wept...

###

A prisoner once more
listening to the birds song
totally captivated...

###

A warm wind blowing
promises of a new tomorrow
brought the morning paper...

###

The grass roots looking
at a sage pointing skyward
only to see the finger...

###

Surrounded by Autumn
Winter waiting in the wings
and yet I can smile...

A TRIBUTE TO THE MILLHAVEN ODYSSEY GROUP

Together in a prison hall
A few brave men were standing tall
Back to back, against the wall
Prepared to fight before they fall
For human rights of one and all.

In the midst of all they saw
They kept an eye on Ottawa
They watched this government of snobs
Sneak about and do its jobs
And in complete hypocrisy
Give it a name: democracy.

The hierarchy was held on high
No one, they thought, we can't buy
The price is right
The shit¹ will fly.

Deep within the prison then
Prepared to stand up and be men
Some destroyed by poverty
Would make a claim on liberty
In recognition of collective plights
Set out to fight for human rights.

The men that came and carried on
The names are great, the lists are long
Howie, George, Bobby, Glen² ...
An appropriate name: an Odyssey³, friend
To open up the prison wall
And bare the facts⁴ before us all.
The Briefs⁴ are studies of the truth.
This systems rotten: here's the proof.

Quickly now the system's hacks,
Ruffled feathers, must make tracks
Earn their pay by breaking backs...

The Odyssey has made its point
It's really shaken up the joint
They're telling people where it's at
We can't sit still or stand for that
Transfers, deaths what'er it takes
Those at the top, they know the stakes
Silence it or it will spread
Do it now or else we're dead.

Censorship in freedom's name
Those that represent the system claim
Distort the truth if you must
The Odyssey's our biggest bust
The Odyssey has got to end
Change that Constitution friend
No more Briefs - now that's the rule
Call them Working Papers, fool.

Stop that talk, stop I say
All that talk about Prison Justice Day
August 10th is set aside
In commemoration of those who've died
A day of fast and non-violent recognition
To draw public attention
To the prison condition.

Visitors are welcome
Though admission is restricted
Through fear you may become addicted
To seeing more than goes on inside
Correspondence has been censored,
Access has been denied.

People look around you
Don't accept it all as fate⁵
Pick up and join our struggle⁵
Before it is too late.

And now throughout all Canada
Free people will rejoice
Harken to the movement
For the prisoners have found their voice⁶.

footnotes

1. Propaganda provided through government bureaucracies and public media.
2. Howard Brown, George Watson, Robert and Glen Landers and those who join them in their heroic struggle.
3. The Odyssey Group, Millhaven Prison.
4. Researched documents provided to media and public representatives outlining prison conditions, demanding change.

by: ray sunstrum

5. For solitary in non-violent resistance to oppression.
6. Subscribe to the Odyssey Newsletter, P.O. Box 280, Bath, Ontario, K0H 1G0.

THE COMMITTEE SPEAKS

The following proposal was formulated by the Inmate Committee, the Lifer's Organization, the Borderview JayCees, and the Francophone Group.

The name we have attached to the concept is the FAMILY FURLOUGH. The purpose of the project is to enhance and solidify the family relations of those inmates who are eligible but are not being given temporary absences. The project is designed to be complementary to current Institutional visiting and correspondence practices. The project will act as a rehabilitative reinforcement such that it will enhance those social aspects of a relationship which are likely to suffer through one member being incarcerated. Incarceration generally increases emotional and social strains upon a relationship for both parties concerned. Typically it is recognized that the wife of a inmate suffers from her loved ones incarceration. Apart from considerations of the member who is free it is generally recognized that paramount importance should be attached to relations an inmate has with members of society. The ultimate adjustment of an inmate is in society with those whom he has the strongest relations. Correctional research has confirmed that prisoners who have constructive relationships with people from the outside are more likely to do well in prison and later on parole than those who do not.

This consideration is especially important for the long term prisoner as well as the 'short timer'. The difficulties of reintegration into society are increased in proportion to the amount of time spent in prison. Taking into account all the difficulties inherent in the current social relations program considerations of time add 'further strains' to a relationship. Matsqui Institution has seen the number of lifers almost double in the last couple of years to where, now, almost one-third of the population is sentenced to life imprisonment. And yet, Matsqui is a medium security institution! It is one step closer

to freedom, one step closer to the eventual release of a prisoner back to society. Since the national rate of recidivism is 75% and the rate of recidivism is markedly lower among those who have a family to return to, why is it that only small and ineffectual steps have been taken in that direction.

As much as a man suffers from his abrupt removal from society his wife's problems have only begun. First there is the loneliness. The loss as the man is led away to prison to begin paying his debt to society. As he is led away a part of her is led away and together they begin to pay his debt. Her feelings, her needs, and her life are being forgotten as much as his. Immediately she is thrust into her new and lonely life style. If she does not give up her husband at the beginning, if their feelings are strong and their relationship sound, then she will bear the scars that time, circumstance, and the outdated Canadian system offer. The years to come have little to offer in compensation for what she has given up.

She may write him and she may visit. For a specified number of hours each week, at specified times and in specified areas, she may visit her husband in a specified manner. She may 'sit' near him, she may touch him occasionally and she may kiss him, providing that the proper decorum is observed. For there are other people present, some watching to ensure compliance with the rules, while the rest are simply other persons, with other problems and other feelings, talking of all those other things, and some, talking of the same things. There is 'little opportunity' to express ones true feelings towards one's spouse.

Who would deny that the current scope of the Family and Social Relations program is inadequate to fulfill its purpose? We believe that there would be few persons if any who would deny it. To deny would be

to suggest that the marriage of two minds can be maintained through correspondence and uneven conditions of conversation carried out amidst a throng of other people. It would also suggest that a man and a woman can belie their essential need for intimate communication to maintain the most important of social relations, marriage. Are not the authorities themselves recognizing the importance of this relationship coming halfway to meet it, and then looking for the next step?

The FAMILY FURLOUGH is the next step! It will not only be a pilot project in the sense of being new and progressive, it will also be answering a crying need of the current penitentiary system for innovative enlightenment. A FAMILY FURLOUGH is a private visit between man and wife within the confines of an institution. The visit will be in a trailer or similar structure which is not a part of the institution and not accessible to inmates. The furlough would be unsupervised and yet could be done within the security requirements of the institution. The project is of such a nature that it will require the close co-operation of the inmates, staff and the Administration to ensure its success.

MORE TRIVIA

Gymnasium: what the greeks had in mind was a place for physical training - in the nude.

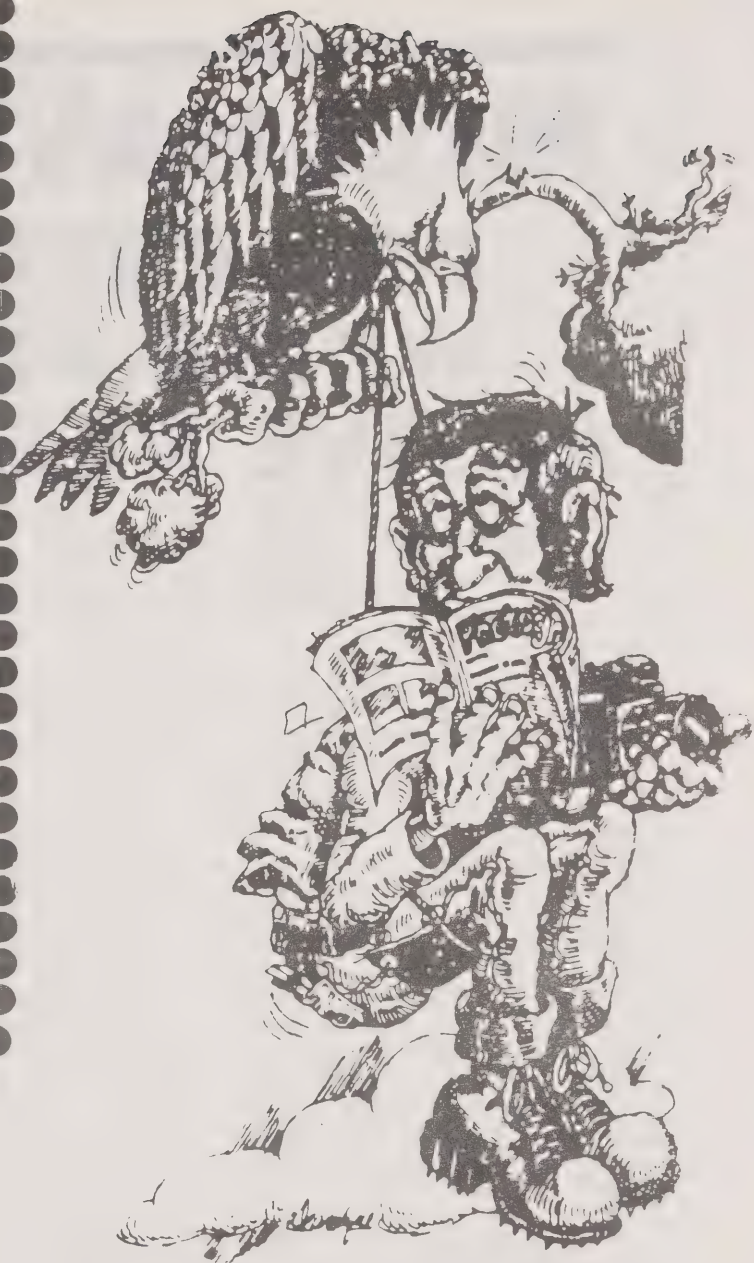
Knowing all the answers is not to gratifying, since you never get asked all the questions.

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation. H.H. Munro.

The world has an equator - so things will be even on both sides.

A martyr is a person who would rather die for a cause than admit it isn't worth it.

When in doubt - mumble.



MILLHAVEN: PRISONERS WRITE FOR ACTIVE REFORM

Authorities respond with transfers,
censorship and red tape.

On July 16th, 1979, there was a protest at Millhaven Penitentiary, a Federal Maximum Security prison in Kingston, Ontario. The prison population staged a sitdown refusal at night lockdown. With the sitdown in progress there were negotiations with the Administration of the prison until 5 a.m. that morning. Finally the prison officials agreed to discuss the 22 demands of the prisoners, demands for a more humane life on the inside, including a call for an end to the brutalising conditions in the Special Handling Unit, that special *prison within a prison* where so-called "incorrigibles" are sent. The inhuman conditions that exist in these Special Handling Units, Environment Control Areas, the 'Hole', have been successfully challenged in a Federal Court of Canada (The McCann case, New Westminster 1975). The nature of confinement in these places was called 'cruel and unusual punishment' by that Court and recommendations were made for change. Thus far, very few of these changes have been realised, and prisoners continue to hold strikes, riot and take hostages in

an effort to expose the treatment they are subjected to. But all too often these actions of protest turn back in on themselves; the protest against repression is reported only when there is violence involved. And this violence which is a symptom, makes the public nervous, thus giving the prison administration the go-ahead for further crackdowns and restrictions. Meanwhile, the frustration which led to this action grows, unabated.

For prisoners now, especially those in maximum security units, in solitary confinement, those first segregated and then brutalized within their isolation, the frustration of their particularly inhuman confinement must be challenged. How, is the question. Violence, which can too easily become self directed, (suicide and self mutilation are many times higher in SHU and the Hole than in the 'normal' prison population) is of limited use. But learning not to play to the media with created 'incidents', hostage taking, and violence is a hard lesson. Television, in particular, is not the friend of the prisoner. Their violent acts, their protest, and their deaths are simply a

'news flash' while the real issue of prison reform and inhuman conditions are too often ignored in favour of the primetime pabulum which, in the words of one inmate "... is our best babysitter. It castrates our lives." No, the answer may lie in a form of public education of a less sensational type.

The Odyssey Group, composed of prisoners serving long-term sentences in Millhaven Penitentiary, is currently involved in just such an education program. Talking in terms the Government can understand, The Odyssey Group acts within due processes of law. Briefs, hearings and management efficiency studies are prepared and circulated. For the system, this must be seen as valuable. Due process hearings defused the 1976 riots in Laval, B.C. Pen and Millhaven. But for the prison population, this trust in the system was violated. The result of these hearings was the MacGuigan Report to Parliament on the Prison System in 1977 which made 65 recommendations for change and reform. So far, the Solicitors General have turned their philosophic backs on these recommendations, in a move toward a larger and still more repressive Justice Industry. A move which

For the 1 in every 25 people who will be insiders in these warehouses of 'justice' someday, and for the 1 in every 1,000 in there now, *injustice is relevant.*

the present government will presumably conserve; like jam, the mess is on too thick to reform. The only MacGuigan Report recommendations that have been implemented are corrections to supposed lapses in the day-to-day housekeeping regulations in that Penal Bible, the Commissioners' Directives. In view of this betrayal, the continuing activity of the Odyssey Group and others like them is remark-

PARTIAL DEMANDS THAT OCCASIONED THE JULY 16th SITDOWN AT MILLHAVEN PENITENTIARY

- immediate alleviation of the brutal conditions in the Special Handling Unit.
- transfer of inmate previously declared insane to Penetang (an institution for the criminally insane). The man is currently being held in SHU at Millhaven and receiving no psychiatric treatment. (see brief re SHU).
- treatment and mobility training and companionship for another SHU inmate who has recently torn out his own eyes.
- halt plans to skinfrisk visitors, a practice which alienates family, relegating them to the same animal posture as their loved ones.
- instate conjugal visits.
- an end to the unnecessary pointing of weapons in the living unit that is currently in practice by guards.
- an end to the unconstitutional censorship of *Odyssey Magazine*.
- a re-instatement of evening cloister privileges, which were taken away to punish this particular demonstration.

Prisons

able. But they are continuing, with determination, to be an articulate voice from the inside.

August 10th, National Prison Justice Day, is in memory of the men and women who have died, and are still dying, in these cells. In the push for 'law & order' the particular injustices of that law and order seem of less concern. But for the 1 in every 25 people who will be insiders in these warehouses of 'justice' someday, and for the 1 in every 1,000 in there now, *injustice is relevant*. Currently there are 26,000 people in the Canadian prison system. It is the most expensive prison system in the world. It costs \$37,000 a year to keep a prisoner in a federal maximum security prison. With a 10 year sentence, a judge is running a \$3.7 million tab. And it's more than money that's being wasted.

Printed below are excerpts from briefs presented to the Solicitor General of Canada and articles printed in *Odyssey*, *The Prisoners' Voice*, April-May issue, 1979. *Odyssey* is published by The Odyssey Group of Millhaven at their own expense. Subscriptions: \$4 for 1 year (six issues). Available from Odyssey Group, P.O. Box 280, Bath, Ontario K0H 1G0. These excerpts speak for themselves. If the Odyssey Group's work is measured in terms of response from officials, they could indeed be said to be effective. The Chairman of the group, Howard Brown and the editor of *Odyssey Magazine*, George Watson have both been shipped out.

The Criminal Justice Committee of the Civil Liberties Association has called for an amendment to the Penitentiary Act requiring that "... decisions relating to punishment in any form, including transfers and dissociations, be subjected to the Canadian Bill of Rights and the rules of natural justice." Until this is enacted, prison administrators will continue to use transfers for their own political ends to fragment prisoner organizations and silence protest.

The government, through the Canadian Correctional Services, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (the prison guards' union) must not continue to exercise the same autonomous power within the prison system. There is a need for community infusion into the Criminal Justice System in Canada. The channels of communication and cooperation must be open-

ed up to shrink this 'justice' industry into a more human form.

Excerpts from prisoners' Brief on SPECIAL HANDLING UNIT (SHU)

photo: Pierre Gaudard

The SHU was officially formed on 29 November 1977 as described in Commissioner's Directive No. 174 issued on that date. However, it has been in use unofficially for at least 4 1/2 years.

Criteria For Placement in SHU. Officially a prisoner must have committed at least one of the following to be placed in this unit: (1) abduction, hostage taking, or forcible confinement; (2) serious incidents of violence; (3) escape or prison breach



Segregation cell at St. Vincent de Paul.

involving the use of force; (4) conviction for first degree murder. However these offences must be committed upon a Canadian Corrections Service employee or a police officer. If a prisoner severely assaults another prisoner he will appear in Institutional Court and most likely receive a sentence in the "hole". If however a guard is assaulted, the prisoner will most likely go to SHU. It is the same with first degree murder. A person serving a 25 year minimum sentence for the death of a civilian is placed in the main population. But if it is a guard or a policeman, he will go to SHU. Is this justice or is this vengeance? A prisoner is transferred to this unit by people who must be biased to say the least.

Recommendation No. 1. That an impartial review board be created to examine each and every case of any person being considered for placement in SHU. They would have to be totally devoid of any previous relationship with the Canadian Corrections Services. These people must be permitted to interview the prisoner in question, and permit the prisoner to speak on his own behalf. If the board decides that the prisoner is to be placed in SHU they should advise the prisoner why he is being placed there and what he would have to accomplish in order to gain release to the main population. As it stands now there is no reason given other than that you have committed an offence.

Segregation Review Board. Once every month there is an Institutional Segregation Review Board. This consists of the Director, Assistant-Director of Security and a few other administrative representatives. A prisoner may appear in front of this board by submitting a request. They will discuss all the men's cases and if they wish, will listen to anything he has to say. A few days later each prisoner will receive a piece of paper saying the board has decided to keep him in SHU. Most people would think that this is great. That it means a prisoner has a chance of getting out of the unit every month. But this is not so. The board has no authority to release a prisoner to any institution. The people who have that authority are in Ottawa and meet every six months. Also the prisoners are not allowed to appear in front of the National Board in Ottawa.

Recommendation No. 2. This would be the same recommendation as the first.

Living Conditions. The living conditions in SHU can only be described as deplorable. Cells measure 10 x 6 x 10 feet and are composed of three steel walls and one concrete wall. Night lights are left on 24 hours a day. These are used for when guards make their rounds which is about every fifty minutes and yet they are left on continuously. It is very aggravating trying to sleep with it on. The windows are also a problem. There is very little access to natural light and fresh air. There are steel plates over the windows which have five openings approximately four inches wide. When the plates were installed, the caulking was removed from the cracks along the sides. This results in cold air blowing in during the

Prisons

winter. Because of the steel walls, it is exactly the opposite in the summer. The steel holds the heat and the cells are like ovens.

Time Out of Cells. Prisoners in SHU spend approximately nineteen hours per day locked in their cell. They are permitted about one hour of exercise outside per day. However in actuality, out of this hour, a prisoner can only spend a maximum of forty-five minutes in the yard. This is because each is let out of their cells one at a time and searched. The procedure takes about fifteen minutes and is repeated as they return to their cells. From 1845 to 2315 hours the prisoners are released to the common room for television. There is an interruption in this at 2010 hours for a count. This count is supposed to take ten minutes and yet it is very seldom that they are any shorter than twenty minutes.

Recommendation No. 3. That the



Drawing by Terry Southwind, a long-term inmate in SHU.

prisoners in SHU be permitted more time in the common rooms. These rooms are not used during the day and there can be no reasonable excuse for this not being allowed. Secondly,

there can be no logical explanation for prisoners being searched on release to yard. On return it is understandable. But what could possibly be brought to the yard from cells that are searched at least twice per week which would be detrimental to the security of the institution? This just seems to be another way to aggravate the prisoners of this unit. Thirdly, that there be no count at 2010 hours as there is no movement in "E" Unit after 1600 hours.

Recreation Facilities. Recreation facilities are practically nonexistent in SHU. The yard is approximately 150 feet by 90 feet and is solid asphalt surrounded by hurricane fencing with three rolls of razor wire and seven strands of barbed wire on top. There are no benches. There is no grass to lay on if you wish to get some sun. Prisoners are not permitted to bring out blankets for this purpose. It was requested that prisoners

"CANADA VIOLATES NEARLY EVERY SECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ACT ON TREATMENT OF PRISONERS."

Brief Re: Transfers, submitted by the Odyssey Group to The Solicitor-General of Canada.

(reprinted from *Odyssey Magazine*, April-May, 1979)

In the super-maximum security prison at Millhaven, there are approximately one-third of the prisoners who do not fall into the stated qualification of being maximum security type prisoners. They have been classified, upon entry into the federal prison system, as being medium and minimum security risks, but, they have been sent to Millhaven on the grounds of suspicion.

The Canadian Penitentiary Service's criteria for a prisoner to be classified as a "maximum security type" is: (a) a person who will make an active attempt to escape; (b) if he does escape, could be a danger to the public; (c) serving a lengthy sentence — where violence was involved.

It is suspected by the prisoners at Millhaven, that because there are only approximately 120 prisoners here that fit into the category of maximum security risks, prisoners are being transferred here from medium security prisons to justify the large amount of security guards that are employed at Millhaven and also to justify the existence of Millhaven itself. If there

are only 120 truly maximum security risks in Ontario, where is the justification for a prison like Millhaven with its oppressive and suppressive policies? 120 prisoners could be distributed elsewhere, but, if the population can be kept at the 200 level, the guards' union can point at that figure and try to justify whatever they do here.

Note: Since we submitted this brief, the shuttle service between the medium security prisons and Millhaven has continued to operate. It is the same old story. Why were you sent here? The reply, "Suspicion."

Another possible and quite probable reason we forgot to mention in the brief is that with the many prisoners being sent to the penitentiary from the county jails who cannot be labelled as "maximum security", there isn't enough room in medium security prisons so prisoners that aren't popular with authorities are being gotten rid of in order to make room for these newcomers.

The Solicitor General has stated that Millhaven is going to be changed to a medium security prison. Perhaps they just want a head start. At the present rate, by 1985 everyone in Millhaven will be a medium security type without changing anything.

The Hypocrites

(reprinted from *Odyssey Magazine*, April-May, 1979).

In *Let's Talk*, the organ of the Canadian Penitentiary Service, Jean-Jacques Blais, Solicitor General, is quoted as saying, "Canada's official position at the UN is that inmates retain all rights of ordinary citizens except those taken away by law due to incarceration. We accept the statement of the Parliamentary Subcommittee that justice for inmates is a personal right essential to their reformation."

Canada's official position at the UN is the exact opposite of what is practised in Canada's penitentiaries. If a copy of the Parliamentary Subcommittee's Report on the Prison System in Canada and a copy of "Cruel & Unusual" were sent to the United Nations, the conditions reported in these two publications would have Canada condemned for violating nearly every section of the United Nations Act on Treatment of Prisoners. Canada is a signatory to this act, but not a practising member.

Trudeau, Outerbridge and Blais — three hypocrites, proven by their own words. It is politer than calling them liars.

George Watson

Prisons

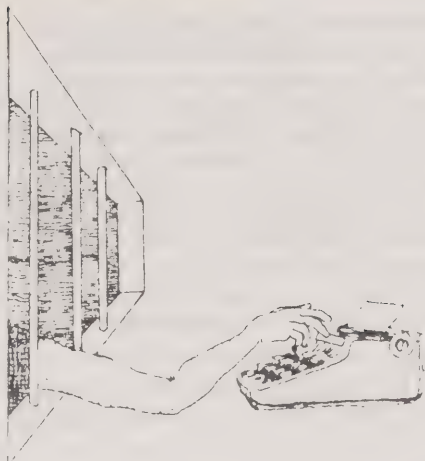
be allowed to bring out a few buckets of water or containers of Kool Aid. This was denied. It was requested that a hose, tap or fountain be installed. Rejected. In the winter of 1977-78 a snow-plow was brought in about six times in the first two weeks of heavy snow. Then it disappeared. A shovel was requested. This was again denied. Prisoners have to walk in snow up to their knees. A chin-up bar was installed in the summer of 1978. An exercise bicycle was brought in but this broke at least once a week. A couple of gloves and softballs, a soccer ball and a football were given to the prisoners. They disappeared. Naturally the guards didn't know where they went although they were locked-up every night. Before these "yards" were built in 1977 the prisoners used the cloisters which are between the buildings. These contain an outside strip of asphalt for those who wish to walk or run. Between these strips are areas of grass. Also there are two small shrubs which add a bit of colour to the surroundings. These areas are at least twice the size of the yards in use now.

"To those prisoners in SHU who are still capable of logic and reason, it is becoming increasingly difficult to cope with the physical and psychological torture which is an everyday part of surviving in this unit."

Recommendation No. 4. That these cloisters be reopened for exercise periods. Also that there be sports equipment put in SHU which will stay there.

Educational Programs. There is practically no educational program in SHU. The only things which do exist are correspondence courses. However, there are prisoners who do not know how to read and write or others who need help with their courses. There are no teachers going up to the unit on a regular basis. The prisoners requested that certain of them be allowed out into the common room to teach and help each other. This was granted in principle, but has not taken place.

Recommendation No. 5. That prisoners be permitted to be released to the common rooms during the day



Drawing: Ivan Horvat, prisoner and negotiator in 1976 B.C. Pen disturbance to help each other in their courses or that a teacher be assigned to SHU on a permanent basis.

Work Programs. In 1976 the administration was talking about building shops for the prisoners in SHU. The only progress, if you can call it that, is a number of jobs held out as pacifiers. There is a librarian whose job it is to keep boxes of books in his cell. There is a prisoner whose job it is to take care of sports equipment when there is any. Another prisoner makes a list of supplies weekly which are needed for cleaning. Also there is a television monitor. His job is to change the channels on the television in the common room. The only reason the jobs are accepted is that they bring in a bit more pay. Another job is cleaning the range. This is done on a rotation basis and is by far the most strenuous of these jobs.

Recommendation No. 6. This has to be one of the most necessary of needs in SHU as the men in there have almost nothing to do during the day. There must be jobs of the type where a man can do some kind of physical work. You cannot imagine the degree of frustration which builds up because of sitting in your cell all day doing nothing day after day.

Grading of Prisoners. Upgrading of pay for prisoners in SHU does not occur. The administration says that because the prisoners do not work they cannot be upgraded. They stay at the lowest level of pay which is \$6.50 per canteen (\$3.25 a week). All of this goes towards necessities such as tobacco, papers, matches, envelopes, writing paper, soap, shampoo, etc.

Recommendation No. 7. That the school teacher be given the authority

to upgrade prisoners in SHU for those doing correspondence courses on the basis of quality and quantity. Also, that jobs be created in order that these men may earn more money.

Hobbies. There are only three hobbies permitted in SHU. They are beading, art work (no oils), petite point. This has been brought to the attention of the administration, but again to no avail. One prisoner requested that he be allowed to do a rug hooking hobby. His request was denied. Why? Because the rug hook could possibly be made into a knife. How naive can you people be? Fifty percent of the things a prisoner has in his cell can be made into weapons. A normal pencil can do as much damage as a regular knife.

Recommendation No. 8. These prisoners should be allowed to purchase a wider variety of hobby equipment.

Medical Attention and Psychiatric Treatment. Requests are sent to the hospital and many times they go unanswered. The prisoners are not provided with yearly physical examinations. As for psychiatric treatment, it does not exist for SHU prisoners. At present there is a prisoner in SHU who has been found "not guilty by reasons of insanity" and placed under the jurisdiction of a Warrant of the Lieutenant-Governor. Because he was serving a previous sentence in the penitentiary, the Canadian Corrections also has jurisdiction over him. If he was not serving this sentence he would now be in Penitanguishene Mental Health Centre. Not only does the C.C.S. have no regard for the man, as he should be in a place where he can receive this treatment, but they have no regard for the people around him. Rather than put him in a place where his illness can be treated, they place him in SHU where the atmosphere is certainly not conducive to better mental health and where there is the distinct possibility of the man hurting either himself or another person.

Recommendation No. 9. When a person in SHU receives some kind of injury he should be seen the next time that the doctor is in the institution. The doctor should also conduct regular yearly physical examinations of these prisoners. There should be some facility for prisoners from SHU who are suffering from mental illness where they can be treated.

Centerfold, August/September 1975

Prisons

Religious Programs. It has been offered to put up a screen in SHU behind which the priests may conduct services for a maximum of four prisoners at a time. This has been refused not only by the prisoners but also by the priest. How degrading can you get? The priests are willing to have services in SHU on a face to face basis and the prisoners would like this to happen.

Recommendation No. 10. That religious services be allowed in SHU without having to have a screen or barrier separating the priest and the men.

Socialization Program. It has been stated by the administration that they "would have one hell of a time finding volunteers to come into SHU." We believe we could find ample volunteers to attend meetings in SHU.

Recommendation No. 11. Volunteers should come into the unit. Association with people from the outside would greatly alleviate the pressures and tensions built up within the prisoners and would give them contact with people who care for them and are concerned about the situation they are in.

"There are guards who the Parliamentary Sub-Committee recommended be removed from contact with prisoners (still) working in SHU. Guards who have been convicted in a Court of Law for breaking a prisoner's back."

Guards Working in SHU. According to the Director, the guards working in SHU are: (1) there on a voluntary basis; (2) able to communicate and get along well with prisoners. The latter can hardly be considered appropriate as some of the most notorious guards are working in this unit. There are guards who the Parliamentary Sub-Committee recommended be removed from contact with prisoners working in SHU. Guards who have been convicted in a Court of Law for breaking a prisoner's back. These guards continue to maintain their reputations by kicking on doors at night, turning night lights off and on, turning off the main lights at night, slamming food slots when meals are being passed out, and the list goes on and on.

Recommendation No. 12. There is not really anything that can be

recommended in this regard which has not been recommended in the various reports by various commissions and committees in the past years.

Summary. To those prisoners in SHU who are still capable of logic and reason, it is becoming increasingly difficult to cope with the physical and psychological torture which is an everyday part of surviving in this unit. The mere fact of surviving is no longer ac-

"With incidents such as beatings, the kicking of doors during the night shift, turning off televisions while the prisoners are watching them, and the host of others can only be thought of as cheap psychology designed for the sole purpose of provoking prisoners into reacting in a negative way, thus lessening the privileges such as they may be."

cepted as reason when the guards and administration continually play their head games. With incidents such as beatings, the kicking of doors during the night shift, turning off televisions while the prisoners are watching them, and the host of others can only be thought of as cheap psychology designed for the sole purpose of provoking prisoners into reacting in a negative way, thus lessening the privileges such as they may be. The despair, loneliness, frustration and hopelessness of not knowing when one is to be released to a normal prison population would lead a person to wonder just what is the use of continuing to lead a life such as this. Especially after spending a number of years doing the same thing . . . nothing.

There is one final recommendation which must be made. That this unit and others like it across the country be abolished. They were created in the first place as a justification to the public for the abolishment of capital punishment. How can the Government of Canada use the destruction of a man's spirit and mind as an alternative to the citizens of this country to killing them? ■

This brief was prepared, written and circulated by The Odyssey Group. The Odyssey Group is made up of prisoners serving long-term sentences in Millhaven Maximum Security Prison.

THE TOP 20 ALBUMS IN VANCOUVER

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. SLOW TRAIN COMING----- | BOB DYLAN | 11. CANDY-O ----- | THE CARS |
| 2. GET THE KNACK----- | THE KNACK | 12. FEAR OF MUSIC----- | TALKING HEADS |
| 3. IN THROUGH THE OUT DOOR--- | LED ZEPPELIN | 13. VOLCANO----- | JIMMY BUFFETT |
| 4. BREAKFAST IN AMERICA----- | SUPERTRAMP | 14. HEAD GAMES----- | FOREIGNER |
| 5. DISCOVERY ----- | ELO | 15. SECRETS----- | ROBERT PALMER |
| 6. EVE----- | ALAN PARSONS | 16. THE CARS----- | THE CARS |
| 7. FLYING COLORS----- | TROOPER | 17. LIVE AT BUDOKAN-CHEAP TRICK | |
| 8. LOW BUDGET ----- | THE KINKS | 18. LOOK SHARP----- | JOE JACKSON |
| 9. DREAM POLICE----- | CHEAP TRICK | 19. NINE LIVERS----- | REO SPEEDWAGON |
| 10. FIRST UNDER THE WIRE----- | LITTLE RIVER BAND | 20. ARMAGEDDON----- | PRISM |

REHABILITATION???

According to the Webster's New collegiate Dictionary, one of the definitions of the noun CHARADE, may be said to be ²"an almost transparent pretense."

Prisoner rehabilitation? -- it's a charade -- but it does serve a dual purpose: for the "purpose and objectives of the Service..." It keeps us out of the moss (hair) of our keepers, & it keeps us busy re-directing our attention, time & energies running to ground an illusion, a will-o-the-wisp called "getting a trade" or "getting an education" to compete in an already glutted labour market. There are no training courses offered in computer maintenance or programming, or many of the new & complex fields that would give a person viable opportunities to compete in the tight-money-rat-eat-rat-labour-market, upon release!

Section 1.06, Part I, of the Penitentiary Service Regulations, under the title "Duty of Members", provides that:

"It is the duty of every member to effect, to the best of his ability, to the laws relating to the administration of penitentiaries in Canada and to use his best endeavours to achieve the purpose and objectives of the Service, namely the custody, control, ¹correctional training and rehabilitation of persons who are sentenced or committed to penitentiary."

Rehabilitation courses in Canadian prisons are like rehabilitation programmes used in every prison since time & punishment began: keeping prisoners busy. Such programmes provide a show of purpose for an institution that never has had a purpose that makes any human sense.

Savage tribes used to lop off a finger or an ear to punish a criminal. Civilised societies confine their amputations to bits & pieces of the personality. Whack-chop: a man's reputation comes off. Chop again: his livelihood is gone. Chop-chop: he's lost the trust & respect of his fellows & a plenty-fair portion of his self-respect. The real punishment for a crime isn't adequately described by the term "jail sentence." How does it hurt a man to feed & clothe & house him, with bills payed by the State?

The jail itself isn't the punishment. The jail is only the shaman's axe that performs the amputation. If rehabilitation worked -- if it really was meant to work -- jails would be obsolete.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE....

Prisoner 7400

¹Underlining added.

²Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, Toronto: Thomas Allen & Sons, 1975.

**** UNITED NATIVE CLUB ****

THE UNITED NATIVE CLUB IS A PENAL GROUP IN MATSQUI PENITENTIARY, COMPOSED OF YOUNG AND OLD NATIVE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER CANADA. THE UNC HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1969, THE MEMBERSHIP VARIES FROM 30 TO 50 MEMBERS. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF OUR ORGANISATION IS TO ASSIST NATIVE PRISONERS HERE TO BETTER UTILIZE, ADJUST OR COPE WITH PRISON LIFE DURING THEIR INCARCERATION. OUR OTHER OBJECTIVES BEING TO DEVISE, INITIATE AND/OR IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS ETC. THAT WILL PROMOTE A POSITIVE SELF-IDENTITY AND AWARENESS, PERSONAL SKILLS, AND LEADERSHIP TO ENCOURAGE THE MAINTENANCE OR RESTORATION OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS AS WELL AS A POSITIVE NATIVE IDENTITY.

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1. MONDAY EVENING OUR COUNCIL MEETING CONCERNING ALL BUSINESS OF THE UNC WHICH IS PRESENTED, DISCUSSED AND DECIDED UPON, INCLUDING ORGANISING DIFFERENT SPORTING TOURNAMENTS WITH COMMUNITY TEAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
2. TUESDAYS MEETING IS AN "INDIAN TALK" PROGRAMME WHICH IS THE SAME AS PUBLIC SPEAKING BEFORE AN AUDIENCE ON AN OPEN FORUM, SPEAKING ON ANY TOPIC OR SUBJECT.
3. THE THURSDAY MEETINGS USUALLY FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BOTH MODERN AND TRADITIONAL ASPECTS OF NATIVE CULTURE. IT IS BASICALLY A HERITAGE NIGHT.

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SOCIAL & CULTURAL DEVL. OFFC.
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Don VanKeecken photo

New Borderview Jay Cee executive installed at Matsqui by Canadian Jay Cee president David Morgan at Saturday's dinner are (left to right) Milos Sartor unit president; Rob Milne vice-president; Paul Magnussen secretary and Brian Boyko

treasurer. Tapestry in background was presented to Borderview by representatives from a Japanese Jaycee unit this spring.

At the banquet, David Morgan bestowed the high honor of senatorship on two unit members: Robbie Robinson, the inmate who was charter president when the unit began in September 1973; and George Simpson, outside liaison for the Borderview Unit. He also declared the Borderview Unit number 1 unit in Canada. The paper made a slight mistake in the naming of Rob Milne as Vice President and Paul Magnussen as Secretary, actually the positions are reversed. Since the banquet, Paul Magnussen has left for another Institution and consequently, a by-election was held for the position external vice president. The new V.P. is Doug McMorland. ED.

lifer's organization

A Lifer's organization was recently formed at Matsqui Institution. It was formed to help those of us serving life sentences face the reality of our incarceration and to provide us a constructive outlet for our time in prison. Our organization will provide a means of educating the public of the fact, that we are capable and willing to improve ourselves, if given the opportunity.

We propose to institute the following programs in order to achieve the above aims:

1. To establish a cohesive and unified approach to deal with our common problems, and to open channels of communication with similar groups, both inside and outside of prison. (Problems to be solved with the help of other lifers and ex-cons).
2. To aid members and their families with the eventual release from prison, and to remove any problems of alienation due to the long term of incarceration. To aid in the setting up of an external body to aid members and their families in case they require counseling or assistance.
3. To aid external organizations on different projects, for example: helping children in all possible ways; assisting the elderly with their problems; assisting the handicapped; as well as those with mental and physical disabilities, etc.

There are numerous problems facing a person serving a life sentence. What do life sentences mean to the individual, to the institutions, and and last but not least, to society? These questions and more will be examined by the Lifer's Organization.

Membership in the Lifer's Organization shall consist of those persons serving life sentences. An annual donation of Ten Dollars is suggested.

Donations to the Lifer's Orgaization in the form of monies, ideas and or assistance, will be greatly appreciated.

Lifers seek an after-life

In the Canadian penitentiary system, a life sentence doesn't necessarily mean you will spend the rest of your life in jail.

Most often, the sentence is 20 years, a period which, through good behavior and hard work in the pen, can be shortened to something more like seven to 10 years of time inside.

The lifers at Matsqui medium-security prison near Abbotsford are worried that

By NORMAN PREVENCHER
Columbian Staff Reporter

they and people in other prisons will not be able to cope once they get outside.

They've formed the Lifers' Association to help ex-cons become involved in activities and to make connections which they hope will make it easier for them to return to a productive life.

"We would like to work with outside groups to make the time we are serving more productive for ourselves and others," a letter, announcing the group's creation, states.

According to the letter, the life-sentence inmates feel they are hit the worst by "the traditional attitude that prisoners are a menace to society and are incapable of constructive activities or reform."

"We feel that being idle in prison.... not doing anything, is wrong," the letter says.

According to the Lifers' Association's well-defined constitution, all one need to join - after one receives a life sentence - is \$10 annual dues and acceptance by two-thirds of the existing membership.

Among the activities the group suggests would improve its somewhat-tarnished image on the outside, are work programs for lifers eligible for day parole to use that time to help old people or youth organizations.

These activities could include home repairs "fixing and-or painting and, in general, assisting these people."

Although the association has only recently been formed, it has attracted the attention and support of the University of Victoria, which now runs credit courses for inmates at the maximum-security B.C. Pen, and the John Howard Society.

In addition to short-term work projects, the association has set itself the long-range goal to establish programs to help the long-term prisoner upon release and "(help the inmate) re-adjust to the ever-changing society."

This would include "arranging outside help and contacts for employment with pre-release programming for members, through existing programs; plus additional programs approved by administration and other Solicitor-General departments."

Lectures, courses, group discussions and films are among the means being considered by the new association.

This article was published without the knowledge of the Lifers' Organization. Although the article highlights some of the Organizations objectives, it did leave a few out. For the most part, the Lifers' Organization was created in the hope that it would help long term prisoners to cope, understand and perhaps help to find a place in society. Besides, societies general attitude about the con acts only as a burden; we hope to change that attitude.

Child Exploitation 'Shocking'

BARON VON LINDBERG

"1979" was declared "International Year of the Child" by the United Nations. Recently Canadian Delegate Doug Roche in a speech to the UN General Assembly said: "A shocking amount of exploitation and discrimination against children exists in different ways in many parts of the world." Roche, who is parliamentary undersecretary to External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald went on to say:

"...Surely the 'International Year of the Child' will have no global benefits unless it galvanizes our attention on the 350 million children in developing countries who do not have access to even the minimum of health services nutrition and education I deplore those who perpetuate child labour and commit vast sums of money to 'elitist development' when human needs are so great. If states truly want to advance the rights of children, they must examine more critically the reasons for the increasing breakdown of family life which is indicated by high divorce statistics, child abuse, and teenage suicide and pregnancy rates."

Humanitarians throughout the world would certainly applaud the stand taken by Mr. Roche. They would, however, have strong reservations and in fact feel there was a lack of credibility on Canada's part if they were familiar with the plight of Indian children in Canada. "Roche's rhetoric is tantamount to that of an Idi Amin addressing the U.N. in which he deplores the lack of civil liberties in other countries without a responsible look at the repressive government that the people of Uganda were subjected to, under his rule. Amin would have been classified as the village buffoon' by the news media throughout the world and Mr. Roche, if he is serious in his condemnation of other countries, deserves no better judgement.

For a good example of the shameful conditions with respect to children in Canada let us look at what is happening in British

Columbia with respect Indian children. The Provincial government agencies are using white standards to declare Indian parents unfit and thus put Indian children into foster homes. The Provincial Social Credit Government (through its child welfare act) has taken 1,000 Indian children into custody (white foster homes) in the last two years. Kitty Sparrow in a recent edition of "The Indian Voice" wrote:

"...One of the most critical issues in the Indian struggle for social justice is the state's apprehension of Indian children. They are sometimes taken unlawfully from reserves and parents are not adequately represented in the courts. These apprehended children suffer from cultural shock and lose their Indian identity. Most of them end up in Canada's penal system and institutions. They have not assimilated into the non-Indian culture and are at a loss as to their own Indian identity."

John Sparrow in the same newspaper writes: "...months of symbols, fetishes, rites and voluminous rhetoric has marked this year of the child, but no visible action has been taken to resolve the serious problems facing children who have been apprehended from their parents by the British Columbia government."

At the 11th general assembly of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs held at Chase, B.C. recently, the Union's president George Manual said: "the apprehension of Indian children is outright genocide." Manual's son stated further that: "Because there's a void in the Indian Act in relation to child protection, they turn around and call in B.C.'s human resources. What our Indian Governments (the chiefs and councilors) have to do is to develop regulations to ensure that our children are protected.

I know, for a fact, in my community we're in that process and there's no way human resources is going to step on our reserve and apprehend any of our children."

Chief Phillip Paul of the Tsarlip band from Saanich, B.C. said: " They are killing our people through legislation. That has got to end.... We have declared the Provincial Government 'public enemy number one'. Paul went on to explain: " Indian people have extended families and usually when there's a problem in a family someone moves in."

Perhaps the best summation is that of Chief Saul Terry of the Bridge River Indian Band of Lilloett, B.C. when he said: "The Canadian government's 'paternalism' has been responsible for the plight of the Indian. This same point was carried further by Bobby Manual of the Neskanlith tribe when he said:

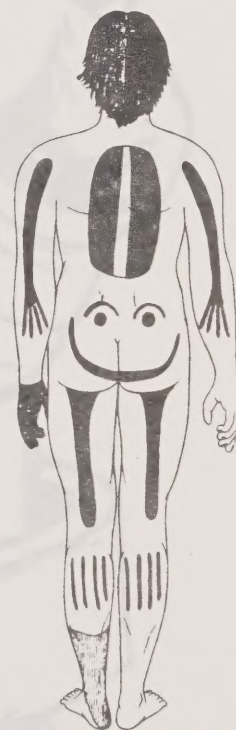
"Our right as Indian people to choose and determine how we shall be governed, how our lands and resources shall be managed, stems from our inherent aboriginal rights. Aboriginal rights stem from our status as the original inhabitants of this land....

According to international law people who live together, who share a common language and a common culture, complete with a philosophy of life, values and institutions, have a right to govern themselves, to be sovereign. The power to govern rests with the people and like aboriginal rights it comes from within the people and cannot be taken away. Indians seek to reinherit the hereditary right to govern, something they did long before the white man came and enforced policies of assimilation with its disastrous effects on the Indian culture and most notably its effect on the Indian children."

With this in mind perhaps External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald will better acquaint her undersecretary on Indian affairs before he speaks to the United Nations again, with respect to the International Year of the Child".

Canada's credibility has suffered so often throughout the world because of a lack of information and understanding by those people who, through their political capacity, act as spokesman for the whole country. Perhaps these people should first be schooled about the domestic and internal problems that exist in Canada before they speak out to world bodies on conditions that they believe exist in other countries.

Without this Canada's reputation and human responsibility will continue to be viewed as somewhat circumspect, by other nations and their people.



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